9th September 1959]

(b) Out of these 45 road-rail crossings, an overbridge has already been constructed on McNicholls Road (near Chetput Railway Station). During the current year it is proposed to take up the work of construction of an overbridge on Lighthouse (Springhaven) Road. The further programme of works to be taken up during 1960–61 and in the Third Five-Year Plan is under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : We can take up question No. 253-A also; it is on a similar subject by the hon. Member Sri Vinayakam.

Railway level-crossings in the City

* 253-A *Q.*—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) how many railway level-crossings are there in the City of Madras, where it is proposed to construct overbridges;

(b) when the work of constructing overbridge at the railway level-crossing of Kodambakkam would be taken up; and

(c) what is the estimated cost and in what proportion would the same be met by the Government of India and the Government of Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Six level-crossings, Sir.

(b) The question whether the work relating to the construction of an overbridge in lieu of the level-crossing near the Kodambakkam Railway Station can be taken up in 1960–61 is under consideration.

(c) The cost of construction of approaches to the overbridge at Kodambakkam level-crossing is estimated at Rs. 20 lakhs. This will be shared equally by the Staae Government and the Corporation of Madras (i.e., Rs. 10 lakhs by the State Government and Rs. 10 lakhs by the Corporation of Madras). The cost of construction of the overbridge proper will have to be borne by the Government of India.

SRI P. G. MANICKAM : ஸார். மேற்கண்ட திட்டங்கள் சென்னை நகருக்கு மட்டும்தான் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ? அல்லது மற்ற நகரங்களுக்கும் இந்தத் திட்டம் விஸ்தரிக்கப்படுமா ? விஸ்தரிக்கப்படும் என்றால், அதனுடைய விவரங்கள் என்ன ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : வெளியூர்களிலும் இந்தத் திட்டம் நடத்தவேண்டும் என்று எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதில் இப்போது நாலைந்து திட்டங்களை முதன்மையாக எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதில் ஒன்று மதுரைப் பக்கம் திருப்பரங்குன்றத்திற்குப் போகும் வழியில் அதாவது, மதுரை—திருநெல்வேலி ரோடில் சுப்பிரமணியபுரம் பக்கத்தில் இந்த வேலையை மேற்கொள்ளுவது என்று தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

[9th September 1959

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Has the Hon. the Minister at any time visited the level-crossing near Kodambakkam when it gets closed in the evenings and has he observed that it takes a period of more than 45 minutes to open and if so, will the Government advance the priority and take up the proposal of constructing an over-bridge next year at least? May I also know what the Film-company owners are prepared to contribute towards the cost of the over-bridge?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I have also been a victim so many times, although the hon. Member who is a resident of that area might have suffered worse. The question is one of finding the necessary finances for the construction of the bridge. That has to be borne by the State Government and the Corporation. I have already said that the cost would be Rs. 20 lakhs to be shared equally between the Corporation of Madras and the State Government and as for the share of the Corporation, the Madras Government will give them a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs which will be their contribution. The cost of the bridge proper has to be borne by the Railway authorities. So far as the film-company owners are concerned, they have promised to make a token contribution towards the cost.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR: Sir, is there any priority fixed for these bridges and if so, on what basis the prority is given? Is there any proposal to construct a bridge at the Tiruvottiyur level-crossing?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: There was a discussion between the Public Works Department and the Railway authorities and the Chief Engineer, Highways. After full discussion, a priority list has been drawn up and in that list the Tiruvottiyur road has marked second after the McNicholls road. The first to be taken up will be the bridge on the Lighthouse Road.

Sea erosion at Dhanushkodi

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member Sri Ramachandran is not present and the question and answer will be printed in the official proceedings.

*240 Q.—SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was erosion due to flow of water from the sea into Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram taluk on 20th May 1959;

(b) if so, the extent of loss and damage caused; and

(c) the protective measures taken to prevent the same?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No loss or damage was caused.

(c) The matter is under consideration.